

Claims

We claim:

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1. A transportable packaging system for the horizontal storage and transport of food and other products, comprising a bag that is approximately square or rectangular in shape, and comprised of a plurality of attached layers, with the first and second layer being side-seamed to form the bottom and top sides of the bag and with a handle that is attached
10 integrally at opposite ends to the side seams of the bag such that it crosses the top of the bag at approximately the center.

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2. The package of claim 1 wherein the bag is comprised of three attached layers such that the first and second layers form the bottom and top side of the bag and the third layer is folded back onto the second layer such that the edge lies beyond the center of the second layer by at least .5 inches from the center but no more than 5 inches from the center and is sliced once across the third layer from one seam of the bag to the opposite seam, such slices being approximately at from .5 to 5 inches from the layer edge to form the exterior pocket and an adjacent separated handle crossing the top side of the bag.

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3. The package of claim 1 wherein the bag is comprised of three attached layers such that the first and second layers form the bottom and top side of the bag and the third layer is folded back onto the second layer such that the edge meets the fold of the first and second layers and is sliced twice in parallel lines across the third layer from one seam of the bag
25 to the opposite seam, such slices being .5 to 5 inches apart and forming a handle crossing the top side of the bag at approximately the center and two adjacent exterior pockets on either side of the handle.

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4. The package of claim 1 wherein the bag is comprised of two attached layers such that the two layers form the bottom and top side of the bag and a separate strip is attached to the bag at three sides of the bag to form an exterior pocket, said strip being sliced at from

.5 to 5 inches from the strip edge to form an adjacent separated handle crossing the top side of the bag.

5 5. The package of claim 1 wherein said handle is in the form of an “X”, with arms extending approximately from the center of the top side, and ending at opposite sides of the bag.

6. The package of claim 5 wherein said handle in the form of an “X” has one triangle side that is not removed from the “X” such that it forms an exterior pocket for the bag.

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7. The package of claim 1 wherein said bag is comprised of the material selected from the group consisting of plastic, thermoplastic, high-density polyethylene, low-density polyethylene, nylon, fabric, paper, and laminated paper.

15 8. The package of claim 1 wherein said bag has sides of about 5 inches to 36 inches in length and width.

9. The package of claim 1 wherein said bag has a weight tolerance of at least approximately 5 to 6 pounds.

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10. The package of claim 1 wherein the bag is comprised of material that has a heat tolerance of at least 200 degrees F for at least 60 minutes and that is optionally microwaveable.

25 11. The package of claim 1 wherein the bag incorporates suitable sealing and resealing fasteners at the open seam, such as an adhesive, interlocking, or pressure strip by which the bag can be opened and resealed.

30 12. The package of claim 1 wherein the bag is comprised of FDA-approved materials for safe storage of food.

13. The package of claim 1 wherein the bag has one or more slits, holes, or other small openings for ventilation.

14. The package of claim 1 wherein the bottom layer of the bag extends to 1/2 inches to 3 inches longer than the top layer at the open side to allow for folding over when closing the bag.

15. The package of claim 1 wherein the bag is comprised of a plurality of layers each of which is approximately 0.10 to 3.0 millimeters in thickness.

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16. The package of claim 1 wherein the bag has no exterior pocket.

17. A process to form the bag of claim 1 wherein the layers of the bag are cut from a sheet of material, then sealed together at the seams, leaving at least one side open (unsealed) to allow for insertion of contents, and optionally including a gusset at one or more of the seams.

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18. The process of claim 17 wherein a handle is formed by means of slicing the top layer after the seams are sealed and wherein an exterior pocket is optionally formed by the same slice.

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19. The process of claim 17 wherein a handle is formed by means of attaching a strip of material across the top layer and optionally slicing the strip to form an exterior pocket and adjacent handle.

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